اسناد لانه جاسوسی

شماره ۳۷

(مسلکهای سیاسی استعمار)

دانشجویان مسلمان پیرو خط امام

In the name of Allah
the most
Compassionate and Merciful

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Continuation Sheet	CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN Classification/Control Markings	Report No. 2 758 0052 77 Page 2 of 3 Pages Originator DET 1, USAICS, USAINTA

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22. (C/NOFORN)

a. The religion of Bahaism in Iran continues to increase numerically and exert influence at the policy levels of the Government of Iran (GOI). Membership in the Bahai sect includes such personages as LTG Abdol Karim AYADI, the personal physician to the Shah of Iran; LTG Fereydoun DJAM (retired), the Iranian Ambassador to Spain; the Shah's son's senior tutor who is a practicing Bahaist and a personal friend and associate of LTG AYADI; at least one Imperial Iranian Armed Forces (IIAF) Division Commander; and several IIAF personnel from mid and lower level to senior staff and line officers.

b. The current growth of Bahaism appears to be attributed to the influence of LTG AYADI with the Shah, who apparently has given tacit approval to the general worship of Bahaism. This allegedly has resulted directly in advances obtained in women's suffrage, land reform, and education. Supposedly these programs reflect doctrines of Bahaism more closely than the Moslem faith.

c. Public practice of Bahaism is still limited; however, there appears to be a lessening of the stigma once attached to such membership. Bahaists appear to be vehemently anti-Moslem and blame the Shiite Moslems for hindering Iran's modernization by utilizing the traditional minded Shi'ite religious leaders to exploit the illiterate peasant populace.

d. Although not readily identified outside of the Bahai community there are several important Bahai shrines in Iran. This low profile is maintained to avoid possible conflict with the Moslem populace. The principal Bahai building is located on Takhte Jamshid Avenue in Tehran and serves as an information center. Approximately ten-twelve years ago during an out of country trip by the Royal Family, this building was attacked (NFI) by Iranian Shiite Moslems. Bahaists believed that, at that time, the Shah did not have the firm military support which he enjoys today and as a result was forced to soften his support for Bahaism. Land is being acquired in Tehran for the construction of a permanent and more appropriate place of worship. Immediate construction of such an edifice, however, appears unlikely due to political and religious considerations at this time.

ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS: (C/NOFORN)

a. Reporting Officer obtained the above information from a senior Iranian military officer who has personal knowledge of such information. It should be noted that source himself is a rabid follower of Bahaism and his opinions as to the degree of influence Bahaists exert on GOI policy should be considered with this background in mind.

22. DETAILS: ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS (C/NOFORN) (con't)

(Leave Blank)

b. Bahaism originated during the mid-19th century in Iran. It emphasizes personal ethics and has the aim of attaining universal peace through conversion to Bahaism. Although very small in numbers, the Bahai community is well educated and engaged primarily in business or the professions.

(1)

TELEGRAM

1978 NOV 28 PM 1:08

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

11650

FROM	CLASSIFICATION
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN	CONFIDENTIAL

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

ACTION:

CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 11650

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: STATUS OF BAHAIS
REF: STATE 296186

POL:3

AMB
MIN
ECON-2
PM
ICA
OR
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TABR

1. BAHAI SITUATION IN IRAN HAS MARGINALLY IMPROVED SINCE REESTABLISHMENT OF DEGREE OF ORDER BY NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THERE REMAINS MAJOR DEGREE OF HOSTILITY AGAINST BAHAIS, PARTICULARLY ON PART OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS OPPOSITION, WHICH IS LEADING ELEMENT OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO SHAH AND GOI. GOI HAD RECOGNIZED THIS PRESSURE AND BAHAIS ARE STILL BEING DISMISSED FROM GOVERNMENT JOBS. SEVERAL DOCTORS AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS WERE DISMISSED LAST WEEK, ACCORDING TO PERSIAN FRIENDS WHO KNOW THE INDIVIDUALS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO OPEN STREET HOSTILITY TOWARD BAHAI SECT BEING MANIFEST AT THE MOMENT. BAHAI TEMPLE HAD MILITARY GUARD DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES, BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE WERE NO ATTACKS AGAINST IT IN RECENT MONTHS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND BAHAIS ARE LEAVING IRAN, BUT SOME

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POL:JDStempel	11/28/78	1112	MIN:CWNaas

CLEARANCES:
POL:GBLambrakis
ECON:CTaylor (contributor)

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)
(Formerly FS-413(H))
January 1975
Dept. of State

50152-101

PROMINENT ONES DO REMAIN. LOWER MIDDLE CLASS BAHAIS TELL US HARASSMENT FROM MOSLEM NEIGHBORS AND PROSELYTIZING MULLAHS INCREASED THROUGH OCTOBER BUT HAS EASED OFF SINCE GENERAL AZHARI BECAME PRIME MINISTER. NO CONNECTION IS ALLEGED, BUT SOME SAY THAT MOSLEM OPPOSITION IS NOW FOCUSING ON CONFRONTATION WITH GOI DURING MOHARRAM (ADDING THAT IF KHOMEINI "WINS," BAHAI SITUATION IN IRAN WILL BECOME INTOLERABLE).

3. WE BELIEVE DEPTOFFS COHEN AND PRECHT TOOK RIGHT LINE ON POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVE USG ACTION. SINCE U.S. IS SEEN AS SUPPORTING GOI, ANY PUBLIC ACTIONS ARE LIKELY TO ENRAGE PRECISELY THOSE PEOPLE MOST LIKELY TO COMMIT VIOLENCE AGAINST BAHAIS. WE BELIEVE BEST POSSIBILITY FOR INFLUENCING SITUATION IN POSITIVE DIRECTION IS CONTINUED DISCREET DISCUSSION WITH GOI OFFICIALS ON NECESSITY TO PROTECT MINORITIES, COUPLED WITH REPEATED REITERATION TO OUR OPPOSITION CONTACTS THAT PERSECUTION/VIOLENCE AGAINST BAHAIS DOES THEIR CAUSE LITTLE GOOD. WE BELIEVE THIS REMAINS BEST POLICY FOR USG SPOKESMEN AT HOME AS WELL.

4. COMPLICATING FACTOR IN SITUATION IS FACT THAT SOME BAHAIS PARTICIPATED IN WHAT ARE SEEN AS EXCESSES AND CORRUPTION OF PAST FEW YEARS. PERHAPS THE MOST NOTABLE BAHAI BUSINESSMAN CASE IS PROMINENT INDUSTRIALIST/FINANCIER HOJABR YAZDANI, WHO HAS BEEN HELD SINCE AUGUST ON CHARGES

OF FRAUD AND ILLEGAL USE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS. [redacted] WE HOPE DISTINCTIONS WILL BE MADE BETWEEN THOSE WHO MAY BE ARRESTED AND TRIED FOR POSSIBLE CORRUPTION OR OTHER SPECIFICALLY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND GENERAL PERSECUTION AGAINST SECT. CONCERNING THE SABET FAMILY WE UNDERSTAND ALL KEY MEMBERS ARE OUTSIDE IRAN: IRAJ IN SWITZERLAND, HARMOZ IN THE U.S. AND THE FATHER, HABIB, BETWEEN NEW YORK AND SWITZERLAND.

SULLIVAN

POL 13-6

ON 1/1/30

SECRET

TEHRAN 0421

12055: DIS 6/26/95 (CLEMENT, C.) OR-P

PINR, PINS, SP, IR

SUBJECT: PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY

S - ENTIRE TEXT; REPORTING CABLE.

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME, SECONDARY PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CALLED BY ONE OF THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE BAHAI COMMUNITY REGARDING RECENT ACTIONS BY THE IRANIAN REGIME. THE BAHAI SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY FEELS THAT IT IS BEING STRANGLED ADMINISTRATIVELY, LEGALLY, AND FINANCIALLY, AND IS FACING THE WORST CRISIS IN ITS 125 YEAR HISTORY.

2. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HE HAD DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING SEVERAL OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AGAINST THE BAHAI COMMUNITY. ON JUNE 6 THE SO-CALLED CONFISCATED GOODS COMMITTEE OF THE POOR PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONFISCATE ALL PROPERTY OF THE BAHAI NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. A LARGE PLOT OF LAND OF ABOUT FOUR MILLION SQUARE METERS CLOSE TO HAVARD COLLEGE, OWNED BY THE BAHAIAT ORGANIZATION (PROTESTANT), HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS AS A TRAINING FACILITY. THE BAHAIAT ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN A MAJOR STOCK COMPANY OWNING PROPERTY ON BEHALF OF THE BAHAI COMMUNITY. OFFICES HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE AND THE MEMBERSHIP LISTS AND FINANCIAL RECORDS HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED. THE ASSETS, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT [illegible] MILLION RIALS, OF THE MAIN BAHAI COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN SAID WERE CONFISCATED ON JUNE 12. THIS COMPANY HAS 3 SHAREHOLDERS. THE MAIN BAHAI HOSPITAL IS STILL OPEN, BUT THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE IS CONTROLLING ACCESS TO IT. NINE CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED, ALLEGEDLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY ARE BAHAIS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE BAHAI SPOKESMAN, TWENTY BAHAIS ARE NOW IN PRISON. IN 35 VILLAGES, 2,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MADE HOMELESS AFTER THEIR HOUSES WERE BURNED. IN ISFAHAN, A VILLAGE ABOUT FIFTY MILES OUTSIDE OF QOM ON THE ROAD TO ESFAHAN, FIFTY BAHAIS WERE FORCED TO CONVERT TO ISLAM AT GUN POINT.

4. THE BAHAIS SEE THESE ACTIONS AS ONLY THE FIRST STEPS IN A CONSCIOUS POLICY AND PROGRAM OF PERSECUTION. THEY EXPECT THAT PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS OF BAHAIS WILL BE CONFISCATED. THEY ALSO ARE EXTREMELY WORRIED THAT THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST THEM ON JULY 16 DURING THE FASTING MONTHS OF RAMADAN, WHICH STARTS JULY 22 IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE MISSING IMAM

SECRET TEHRAN 0421

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1977—225-323

TWELFTH). THE LEADING AYATOLLAH IN SHIRAZ HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE INTENDS TO CELEBRATE THIS DAY IN THE BAHAI BUILDING IN SHIRAZ. THE FEAR IS THAT HE WILL DELIVER A FIERY ANTI-BAHAI SERMON AND WHIP THE [illegible] INTO AN UNCONTROLLABLE FRENZY WHICH COULD LEAD TO REPETITION OF THE ANTI-BAHAI EVENTS IN SHIRAZ IN [illegible], OR SOMETHING WORSE.

[illegible] HAS ASKED US TO TAKE A DETAILED SPEECH [illegible] TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO A NEWSPAPER IN [illegible] EUROPEAN COUNTRY, PROBABLY SWITZERLAND. HE PLEADED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE HELD VERY CLOSELY FOR TIME BEING, BECAUSE HE AND THE BAHAIS FEAR THAT IF WERE TO LEAK TO U.S. NEWSPAPERS AT THIS TIME, IT COULD SERIOUSLY [illegible] CREATE THE ALREADY EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR THE BAHAIS IN IRAN. MEAS

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 6502/1

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DRAFTED BY: POL/C:CLEMENT:MAP
APPROVED BY: POL:WILLIAMSEN
DEPT: POL CHRON,
CHRON

DS/IR: 305 6/21/79 (CLEMENT, C.) DA-P
SUBJ: BAHAI, BIRD, ISRAEL, IR
REF: PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY

(A) STATE 159779, (B) TEHRAN 6421

(C) - ENTIRE TEXT.)

1. I MET WITH PRIOR AGAIN JUNE 21 ON SUBJECT OF PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY. BECAUSE PRIOR IS HAVING THREE MEETINGS WITH BAHAI LEADERS JUNE 21 AND JUNE 25, I BELIEVE IS AN INTERIM REPLY TO STATE 159779.

2. PRIOR HAS PROMISED TO HOLD DOCUMENTS IN HIS POSSESSION HIMSELF AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE 25. HE IS STILL WORKING ON REPORT, WHICH IS NOT COMPLETELY FINISHED OWING TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE THAT BAHAI LEADERS HAVE PROMISED HIM.

3. MINISTRY IS WORKING ON OBTAINING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF THE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED ACTIONS AND THREATS. PRIOR SAID THAT ATTACKS ON 52 VILLAGES TOOK PLACE BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER FEBRUARY REVOLUTION. HIS INFORMATION COVERS THE JANUARY 1 - MARCH 15 PERIOD. HE WILL BE PROVIDING WITH DETAILED SPECIFICS BY BAHAI LEADERS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES MOST OF THE ATTACKS TOOK PLACE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION.

4. CONCERNING QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE IS A LEGAL BASIS FOR CONFISCATION OF BAHAI PROPERTY AND ASSETS, PRIOR SAID HE HAS A COPY OF A DOCUMENT DEALING WITH THE CONFISCATIONS THAT WERE DESCRIBED IN TEHRAN 6421. IT IS A FORM WHICH HAS THE NAME AND SEAL OF THE "CONFISCATED GOODS COMMITTEE OF THE POOR PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION" IN THE UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER, A FILE OR DOCKET NUMBER IN THE UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER, AND A SEAL STAMP ON THE BOTTOM. THE FORM IS SIGNED BY A MASSOUD ETEGUDEH, WHOSE TITLE IS "SUPERVISOR OF THE CONFISCATED GOODS COMMITTEES." THERE IS A PLACE ON THE FORM WHERE THE NAME OF THE PERSON ASSIGNED TO DO THE CONFISCATING AND THE NAME OR NAMES OF THE ENTITIES TO BE CONFISCATED ARE ENTERED. THE TEXT OF THE FORM INCLUDES THE FORMULATION: "IN ACCORDANCE WITH ONE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT YOU ARE AUTHORIZED CONFISCATE ..." THE DOCUMENT THAT PRIOR HAS HAS THIS BASIC AND SPECIFIES THAT THE THREE ENTITIES, THE SHERKAT ANONIM (REAL ESTATE COMPANY), THE NOW NAHALAM COMPANY (INVESTMENT CO.), AND THE MISAGHIE HOSPITAL ARE TO BE CONFISCATED. AS MENTIONED, THE HOSPITAL HAS NOT YET BEEN

SECRET TEHRAN 6502

ACTIVITY TAKEN OVER.

3. IT WOULD THEREFORE SEEM THAT, INSOFAR AS ANYTHING IS LEGAL IN TODAY'S IRAN, THE CONFISCATION ON THE ORDER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COURT IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A LEGAL BASIS. THE FORM LATTER NATURE OF THE DOCUMENT RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONFISCATIONS ARE FREQUENT OCCURRENCES.

4. PRYOR IS SENSITIVE ABOUT PUBLICITY IN THE U.S. BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN HIS WORD TO BAHAI LEADERS ON THIS AND BECAUSE HE AGREES WITH THEM THAT IT IS BETTER TO HAVE THE INFORMATION COME OUT FIRST IN EUROPE IN A NEUTRAL COUNTRY AND NOT IN THE U.S. SINCE IT WOULD IN THAT CASE AUTOMATICALLY BE LABELLED AS A CIA PLOT. BASED ON OUR READING OF THE SITUATION HERE, WE MUST AGREE WITH PRYOR AND THINK IT WOULD BE MOST UNHELPFUL TO THE BAHAIS TO HAVE IT COME OUT FIRST IN THE U.S. IN THIS REGARD, PRYOR SAID THAT HE AND THE BAHAI LEADERS HAD CONSIDERED THREE ALTERNATIVES--SPREAD THE NEWS THROUGH NEWSWEEK OR TIME, GO THROUGH THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, OR APPROACH THE UN THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THEY REJECTED THE FIRST AND ADOPTED THE SECOND. THEY ARE NOT EXCLUDING PARALLEL HUMAN RIGHTS CHANNEL ACTION.

5. WE HAVE ASKED PRYOR TO DISCUSS WITH BAHAI LEADERS QUESTION OF WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE DONE TO PROTECT THEM. AS IN THE CASE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, WE FEEL THAT IT IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO HAVE THE VIEW OF THE LOCAL LEADERS ON THESE MATTERS BEFORE EMBARKING ON ANY PARTI-

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ACTION PLAN. OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT
ALTHOUGH IT IS VERY LITTLE THAT THE U.S. CAN DO
GENERALLY TO HELP PROTECT THE BAHAIS. WHEREAS OUR
EMBASSY IN THE UNIQUE CATEGORY OF BEING CONSIDERED APOSTATES
AND ARE NOT AND HAVE NOT BEEN CONSIDERED A LEGAL RELIGIOUS
ENTITY. THEY, THEREFORE, HAVE NOT ENJOYED ANY SPECIFIC
CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES, NOR WILL ANY BE FORTHCOMING.
UNDER THE SHAH THEY WERE PROTECTED, SOMA SAY FAVORED. NOW
THE ISLAMIC PURITANS AND FANATICS HOLD SWAY, THE
BAHAIS CANNOT COUNT ON MUCH PROTECTION OR COMPASSION.

U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN A PUBLIC MANNER, SUCH AS A SENATE
RESOLUTION ON BAHAIS, WOULD CLEEFULLY BE SEIZED UPON AS
INTERFERENCE AND WOULD MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE FOR THE
BAHAIS. INTERNATIONAL ACTION BY CHURCH OR HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUPS, ESPECIALLY IF NOT US-ORIGINATED, COULD POSSIBLY
BE HELPFUL TO THE BAHAIS, AND COULD MORE SAFELY AND
EFFECTIVELY BE SUPPORTED BY WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. ONCE
THE BAHAI QUESTION BECOMES AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, IT
WOULD INEVITABLY ALSO TAKE ITS PLACE IN OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN. SO FAR, ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT
DESK STATE MEMORY BANK, THE EMBASSY HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY
RAISED WITH THE FOOI THE BAHAI QUESTION. THE EMBASSY HAS
MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN IT SPEAKS OF RELIGIOUS
MINORITIES TO THE FOOI, THE BAHAIS ARE INCLUDED. THE FOOI,
OF COURSE, DOES NOT ACCEPT SUCH AN INCLUSION.

PRYOR WILL ALSO PURSUE QUESTION OF TRYING TO TURN OFF
THE 28 MARDAD JULY 10 EVENT, AND WILL LET US KNOW WHAT THE
BAHAI LEADERS THINK. WE DOUBT THAT EFFORTS BY THE EMBASSY
THROUGH ISLAMIC CHANNELS WOULD SUCCEED, BUT ARE HOLDING
THAT OPTION OPEN. IN THIS REGARD, PRYOR RECOUNTED THAT
THE BAHAIS HAD SENT TELEGRAMS TO THE FOURTEEN MOST
INFLUENTIAL AYATOLLAHS PROTESTING THE CONFISCATIONS.
THEY HAVE HAD NO REPLIES, AND FEEL THAT THEIR APPEALS ARE
BEING SIMPLY IGNORED AS A MATTER OF POLICY, AS IF THEY
DID NOT EXIST.

12. PRYOR HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT THE ISFAHAN EVENTS DES-
CRIBED IN TEHRAN 6892. TEHRAN 4942 HAS BEEN DESTROYED,
AS ARE ALL CLASSIFIED OUTGOING CABLES AFTER THIRTY DAYS.
DEPARTMENT SHOULD KEEP THIS PROCEDURE IN MIND WHEN
REFERENCING CABLES.

13. WE WILL FOLLOW UP ON THIS MATTER AFTER FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS WITH REVEREND PRYOR, AND OTHER CONTACTS
WITH THE BAHAI COMMUNITY. LAINGEN

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TEHRAN 6892/2

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2332
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF TEHRAN 06755

CLASS: SECRET
CHRGE: STATE 6/28/79
APPRV: CHARGE:LBLAIN
DRFTD: POL:CCLEMENT:M
CLEAR: POL:VLTOMSETH
DISTR: POL-4 CHG

LIMDIS

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/28/85 (CLEMENT, C.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, IR
SUBJECT: BAHAI COMMUNITY SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 158779, (B) TEHRAN 6421, (C) TEHRAN 6500

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. EMBOFFS HAVE OBTAINED INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF BASIC POINTS IN INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY REVEREND PRYOR AS REPORTED IN REFTELS. VERIFICATION COMES FROM FSN SOURCE WHO IS CONSIDERED KNOWLEDGEABLE AND RELIABLE. SOURCE IS WORKING ON SETTING UP MEETING BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND BAHAI LEADERS.

3. IN MOST RECENT DISCUSSION WITH PRYOR ON JUNE 28, HE SAID THAT CURRENT SITUATION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY SHOULD PERHAPS BE MORE APPROPRIATELY CHARACTERIZED AS ONE OF "HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION" RATHER THAN "PERSECUTION." BE THIS AS IT MAY, IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE BAHAI LEADERS ARE EXTREMELY WORRIED AND SEE THEMSELVES FACING THE WORST CRISIS IN THE HISTORY OF BAHAISM. EVERY DAY BRINGS ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF HARASSMENT.

4. THE BAHAI LEADERS ARE STILL HOPING THAT VIOLENCE CAN BE AVOIDED IN SHIRAZ ON JULY 10. THEY HAVE ASKED TO SEE PM BAZARGAN REGARDING THIS. MEANWHILE THEY DO NOT WISH TO PUBLICLY EXACERBATE THE ALREADY TENSE SITUATION. THEY HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THE USG NOT TAKE ANY ACTION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN IRAN.

5. THE BAHAI LEADERS DO WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION IS SAFELY IN PLACE OUTSIDE IRAN SO THAT THEY CAN GO PUBLIC WITH THEIR STORY WHEN AND IF NEEDED. THEY HAVE ASKED PRYOR TO GO TO GENEVA AND ZURICH, AND HE WILL DO SO AROUND JULY 7. PRYOR WILL REPORT TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA AND LEAVE DOCUMENTATION IN SAFE HANDS IN SWITZERLAND. HE IS AFRAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION COULD BECOME SUBSTANTIALLY WORSE BEFORE THEN.

6. PRYOR PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET HAD TIME TO VERIFY FROM OTHER SOURCES) ON JUNE 28: OF THE ROUGHLY 400,000 BAHAIS IN IRAN, ABOUT 75,000 ARE IN TEHRAN. THE MASTER MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR TEHRAN WAS STOLEN ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO. THE BAHAIS BELIEVE IT IS IN ISLAMIC HANDS, BECAUSE A NUMBER OF BAHAIS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING

LETTERS IN THEIR NAME AT THEIR HOME ADDRESS FROM THE ISLAMIC PROPAGANDA ORGANIZATION IN QOM STRONGLY URGING THEM TO CONVERT TO ISLAM. SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS HAVE BEEN BROKEN UP, AND FILES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. WHEREAS RELIGIOUS MEETINGS NORMALLY WERE ATTENDED BY 200 MEMBERS, THEY ARE NOW LIMITED TO 10-15 PEOPLE SO AS TO AVOID HARASSMENT.

7. TO DATE, THE PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE TOP 27 BAHAI LEADERS WHO MAKE UP THE NATIONAL COUNCIL HAVE BEEN FROZEN (BUT NOT YET CONFISCATED). TWO OF THESE LEADERS HAVE BEEN DENIED EXIT PERMITS, OTHERS HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN ONE. IN ADDITION TO PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CONFISCATIONS OF BAHAI COMMUNITY ASSETS, FOUR OF THE MAIN FIVE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED. THESE BUILDINGS ARE VALUED AT BETWEEN $70-100 MILLION. THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS DISMISSED FROM THEIR JORS SINCE EARLY DECEMBER ON THE SPECIFIC GROUND THAT THEY WERE BAHAI IS ABOUT 90, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION (DOCUMENTED) PROVIDED TO PRYOR.

8. THE BAHAI LEADERS DO NOT HAVE ANY REAL IDEA OF HOW MANY BAHAIS HAVE LEFT IRAN, BUT ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EXODUS HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN SIGNIFICANT. THE LEADERS ARE URGING THEIR MEMBERS TO STAY IN IRAN.

9. UP TO NOW THE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST THE COMMUNITY AS AN ENTITY, RATHER THAN AGAINST INDIVIDUAL BAHAIS--EXCEPT FOR THE FROZEN BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE LEADERS, DISMISSAL OF CIVIL SERVANTS, ATTEMPTS TO PRESSURE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TO CONVERT, AND THE HARASSMENT OF RELIGIOUS MEETINGS. THE BAHAI LEADERS ARE FEARFUL THAT THE SITUATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WILL CHANGE FOR THE WORSE SOON.

10. NO BAHAIS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE POST-REVOLUTION ERA, AND NONE OF THE MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED WERE BAHAIS (IT IS AGAINST BAHAI RULES FOR MEMBERS TO BE ACTIVE IN POLITICS). HOPEFULLY THE SAME CAN STILL BE SAID AFTER JULY 10. BAHAISM STARTED IN SHIRAZ IN 1844 WITH BAHAULLAH PROCLAIMING HIMSELF AS THE MISSING IMAM.

11. AS FURTHER INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE THROUGH OTHER SOURCES, WE WILL UP-DATE REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT.

LAINGEN

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SECRET TEHRAN 6755/2

DRW

NNNNVV ESA823MJC919
RR RUQMHR
DE RUMJGM #4698 2540515
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 110505Z SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4882
INFO RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 487
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

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CONS
CHRG
POL
ECON
CHRN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4698

~~E.O. 12065~~: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, IR, CE
SUBJ: INCREASE IN IRANIAN VISA APPLICANTS IN SRI LANKA

1. SINCE END OF AUGUST EMBASSY HAS OBSERVED DEFINITE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF IRANIAN NON-IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS APPEARING IN OUR CONSULAR SECTION. NUMBER OF APPLICANTS NOW AVERAGES FOUR PER WEEK AS CONTRASTED TO ONE EVERY TWO WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. SIX APPLICANTS CALLED ON CONSUL ON 9/10.

2. APPLICANTS USUALLY HAVE BEEN MALE STUDENTS IN EARLY 20'S, BUT THEY NOW INCLUDE BUSINESSMEN AND FAMILIES. THE IRANIANS EXPLAIN THAT SINCE U.S. VISA FACILITIES IN TEHRAN ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE, SRI LANKA IS A CONVENIENT PORT OF CALL FOR THEM. APPLICANTS SHOW EXTREME TENSION AND ANXIETY.

3. THUS FAR DOCUMENTATION APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER AND CONSUL IS ISSUING MAJORITY OF VISAS. APPLICANTS DISPLAYING GREATEST TENSION CLAIM TO BE MEMBERS OF BAHAI AND ZOROASTRIAN MINORITY GROUPS AND STATE THEY CANNOT RETURN TO IRAN BECAUSE OF PERSECUTION.

4. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. ANY GUIDANCE AND INDICATIONS OF IRANIAN APPLICANT TRENDS ELSEWHERE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

WRIGGINS

BT
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OO RUQMHR
DE RUEHC #1745 2571858
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241745

08/7/24

POL
CHARGE"
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CHRON

E.O. 12065: GDS, 9/13/85 (CLEMENT, CARL)

TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, IR

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF ATTACKS ON BAHAIS IN SHIRAZ

REF: TEHRAN 10001

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. MR. GLENN MITCHEL OF THE BAHA'I HIGH ASSEMBLY IN THE US (PROTECT), WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH BEFORE, CALLED NEA/IRN SEPTEMBER 13 TO SAY THAT DESPITE REUTERS STORY DENYING DESTRUCTION OF THE BAB'S SHRINE IN SHIRAZ, THE BAHA'IS HAD INCONTROVERTIBLE PROOF OF IT AND WOULD TRY TO GET ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPHS TO US.

3. ACCORDING TO MITCHELL, WRECKING CREWS HAVE BEEN AT WORK OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS IN RAZING THE BUILDING AND ARE PROBABLY STILL DOING SO. WE KNOW THAT THE SHRINE IS NOT EASY TO LOCATE, BUT WOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ONE OF THE SHIRAZ CONSULATE NATIONALS TO TRY TO CHECK ON THE STATE OF THE SHRINE?

4. MITCHELL ALSO CLAIMED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT RECENTLY GIVING THE NAMES OF THIRTY BAHA'IS WHOAREPROSCRIBED FROM LEAVING IRAN AND WITH WHOM NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO HAVE ANY DEALINGS. ACCORDING TO MITCHELL, THE GOVERNMENT, OR PEOPLE CLOSE TO GOVERNING RELIGIOUS CIRCLES, ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FABRICATING EVIDENCE REGARDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, BUSINESS CHEATING, CORRUPTION, AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PREVIOUS REGIME OF BAHA'IS SO THAT THEY CAN THEN BE TRIED BY REVOLUTIONARY COURTS ON THESE GROUNDS R;THER THAN FOR BEING BAHA'I.

5. ANY INFORMATION THAT EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP ON SITUATION OF BAHA'IS WILL BE APPRECIATED. VANCE
BT
#1745

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O 171227Z SEP 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 4562
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244694

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/17/85 (CLEMENT, CARL)

TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, IR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF BAHA'I SHRINE IN SHIRAZ

REF: (A) STATE 241745, (B) TEHRAN 10001

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES HAVE BEEN FLOODED WITH TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS FROM BAHA'IS IN THE U.S. CONCERNING THE REPORTED DESTRUCTION OF THE BAB'S HOUSE IN SHIRAZ, WHICH IS BEING CHARACTERIZED AS THE HOLIEST SHRINE OF THE BAHA'IS.

3. WE URGENTLY NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT FROM EMBASSY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE RESPONSES TO NUMEROUS QUERIES FROM CONGRESS.

4. SINCE SHIRAZ RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS OFFICE OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE RAZING OF THE BUILDING, IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE MATTER WITH MINACHI AND/OR YAZDI, EXPRESSING THE WIDE-SPREAD CONCERN HERE AND THE NEGATIVE EFFECT HARASSMENT OF BAHA'IS WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE ON THE AMERICAN PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION.

5. FYI. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RUMBLINGS ABOUT A SENATE RESOLUTION ON THIS MATTER. WE KNOW THE IRANIAN EMBASSY ALSO HAS BEEN INUNDATED WITH CALLS AND LETTERS. END FYI.
VANCE
BT
#4694

POL
CHRG
CONS
RF
CHRN

5

DE RUQMHR #0284 263 **
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 2013282 SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3881
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10284

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHRGE: STAT 9/20/79
APPRV: CHARGE:LBLAINGE
DRFTD: POL:EASWIFT:GO
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: POL2 CHG ICA
ECON CONS CHRON
RF

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/29/85 (SWIFT, ELIZABETH A.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, IR
SUBJECT: BAHA'IS IN IRAN

REF: STATE 246627

CHRON

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT MOUNTING PRESSURE BY BAHA'IS IN US MAY WELL RESULT IN CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN FORM OF RESOLUTIONS AND IN DEMANDS THAT EMBASSY OR STATE TAKE SOME ACTION ON BEHALF OF BAHA'I COMMUNITY.

3. OF THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAN, THE BAHA'IS, AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, ARE THE ONLY GROUP NOT RECOGNIZED OR GIVEN SOME FORM OF OFFICIAL SANCTION BY PGOI. BAHA'IS AS YAZDI HAS TOLD CHARGE ARE CONSIDERED A POLITICAL GROUPING. MAJORITY SHIITE COMMUNITY IN IRAN REGARDS BAHA'IS AS HERITICS WHO ARE OPENLY DESPISED. (SOMEWHERE BETWEEN A SNAKE AND A COCKROACH IS THE USUAL DESCRIPTION). BAHA'IS FAVORED POSITION UNDER THE SHAH MEANS THAT MANY ARE SUSPECT BY THE PGOI AS WELL FOR CORRUPTION OR OTHER ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES.

4. BAHA'I COMMUNITY IN IRAN IS PERSECUTED TO EXTENT THAT THEIR BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED, THEY ARE FEARFUL OF MEETING OPENLY AND SOME HAVE PROBABLY LOST JOBS OR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGION. SOME HAVE ALSO BEEN JAILED, PROBABLY MORE BECAUSE OF THEIR PAST CONNECTIONS TO THE REGIME THAN THEIR RELIGION. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, HAD NO REPORTS OF BAHA'I BEING KILLED RECENTLY, ALTHOUGH IF THERE WAS A MOB ATTACK IN SHIRAZ, WHICH WE TEND TO DOUBT, WE WOULD NOT DISCOUNT THIS POSSIBILITY.

5. MEMBERS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE DEFINITELY FEEL THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON PGOI HAS HELPED TO PROTECT IRANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, WHAT THE EFFECT WILL BE OF SIMILAR PRESSURE ON THE PART OF THE BAHA'IS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CHECKING WITH LEADERS OF BAHA'I COMMUNITY IN US TO SEE THAT THEIR ACTIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT AT REQUEST OF OR WITH CONSENT OF LEADERS OF BAHA'I COMMUNITY HERE. LAINGEN
BT
#0284

NNNN

DE RUQMHR #0286 263 **
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 2013452 SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3884
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10286

CLASS: CONFIDENTIA
CHRGE: STAT 9/20/7
APPRV: CHARGE:LBLA
DRFTD: POL:EASWIFT
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: POL2 CHG EC
ICA CONS CH
RF

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/20/85 (SWIFT, ELIZABETH A.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, IR
SUBJECT: IRANIAN BAHA'IS

REF: STATE 146627

CHRON

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. EMBOFF TALKED WITH NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR AUGUST 20 RE BAHA'IS. AMBASSADOR HAD TALKED WITH A MEMBER OF BAHA'I LEADERSHIP COUNCIL GHADDEMI (PHON) TWO DAYS AGO. GHADDEMI SAID BAHA'IS WERE NOT CERTAIN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTRUCTION OF BAB'S HOUSE. LOCAL MULLLAH ON/ABOUT SEPT 6 DEMANDED FROM BAHA'IS IN SHIRAZ AND WAS GIVEN KEYS SO HE COULD "PROTECT" HOUSE. ON SEPT 8 ACCORDING TO GHADDEMI, GROUP OF ABOUT 100 MEN, SOME ARMED, ATTACKED HOUSE WITH HAMMERS AND SPENT ALL DAY SYSTEMATICALLY DEMOLISHING IT.

3. GHADDEMI ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR HE DID NOT THINK BAHA'IS IN LARGE CITIES WERE IN ANY DANGER OF LIFE. SECURITY SITUATION IN RURAL TOWNS FOR BAHA'IS WAS, HOWEVER, RISKY. NO BAHA'IS HAVE BEEN KILLED RECENTLY; BAHA'I PROPERTY AND COMPANIES HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED AND SOME BAHA'IS HAVE BEEN JAILED ON WHAT GHADDEMI CALLED TRUMPED UP CHARGES. ABOUT 100 BAHA'IS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

4. GHADDEMI APPARENTLY AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR THAT NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY INTERVENTION IN TEHRAN MIGHT NOT BE HELPFUL BUT WAS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN STIRRING UP INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN BAHA'IS. GHADDEMI SAID BAHA'IS HAVE SENT MANY LETTERS TO PRIME MINISTER BAZARGAN BUT THEY HAD BEEN IGNORED. LAINGEN
BT
#0286

NNNN

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1977-241-333

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 3, 1979

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
CONFIDENTIAL

Ms. Ann Swift
Political Officer
American Embassy
Tehran, Iran

Dear Ann:

Thanks -- as I leave for NYC meeting -- for your letter of September 23. You all have done good work on the Baha'i question and it has enabled us to satisfy our many callers from the Hill and within the American Baha'i community. It is strange that the press has paid virtually no attention and the Congressional interest has seemed perfunctory -- compared to past experiences.

All of us here and others around the town are deeply appreciative for the fine work POL is producing. It has been a long time since Embassy Tehran had such a competent political section. (Stop preening and start sending us memcons.)

Tell your Farsi colleagues on the front lines we stand behind them.

Sincerely,

Henry Precht

CONFIDENTIAL
GDS 10/3/85

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
CONFIDENTIAL

October 11, 1979

Ms. Ann Swift
Political Officer
American Embassy
Tehran

Dear Ann:

Henry has already answered your letter on the Baha'is, but I want to follow-up on it with a few lines. First of all let me echo Henry's praise for current reporting by the political section. I hope that you, too, will soon have a chance to do some traveling in Iran and that the section as a whole will take every opportunity that presents itself for taking the political pulse of the provinces.

On the Baha'is, I am sending along copies of some documents that we have received from the Baha'i National Assembly here. The paper put out in Switzerland is in fact one prepared by Reverend Bob Pryor. He carried it to Switzerland in July after discussions with Victor and me about the subject. His role should, of course, be kept quiet.

I note in the New Zealand Ambassador's cable that you sent us a copy of, that Ghadimi had fully accepted the suggestion of the New Zealand and British Ambassadors that a coordinated and well publicized campaign of protest from Baha'i communities around the world could be useful. While I do not believe that we should get into the business of suggesting to Ghadimi what to do, we should continue to make sure that we are fully informed about the views and plans of the Baha'is in Iran. Therefore, we would urge you and Victor to keep in touch with Ghadimi.

CONFIDENTIAL
GDS 10/11/85

As a final point, let me alert you that yesterday the Head of the Assyrian Church had a meeting with the Vice President. We do not have a report yet on what transpired, but it would not surprise me if you were asked to report on the Assyrian situation.

With the very best of regards to all of you,

Sincerely,

Carl Clement
Deputy Director
Office of Iranian Affairs

Enclosure.

CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 11242

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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 11242

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/85 (TOMSETH, VICTOR L.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, IR, PINS, PINR, CONS
SUBJECT: BAHA'I COMMUNITY SITUATION

REF: (A) TEHRAN 6401, (B) TEHRAN 6705, (C) TEHRAN 6931

(C - ENTIRE TEXT).

1. LEPTOFF PRICHT AND POLCOUNS MET WITH Y.M. GHADIMI, MEMBER OF THE IRANIAN BAHA'I NATIONAL COUNCIL, OCTOBER 12. DISCUSSION PRODUCED LITTLE SUBSTANCE NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTELS) APART FROM GHADIMI'S STATEMENT THAT THE COMPLEXITY OF EFFORTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND SHOW SYMPATHY TO THE BAHA'I COMMUNITY'S SITUATION. HE INTIMATED THAT SUCH VIEWS WERE REFLECTED IN OFFICE POLITICS PROVIDED THE GROUNDS FOR THE HOUSE (TEHRAN 6705) FOLLOWING THE BUILDING'S DEMOLITION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAD INSTRUCTED THE MAYOR OF SHIRAZ TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAD "INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS."

2. GHADIMI AGAIN STRESSED THAT THE FOCUS OF BAHA'I EFFORTS IN IRAN LIE IN SECURING FROM IF NOT EXPLICIT GUARANTEES TO THE COMMUNITY'S CIVIL RIGHTS. HE REITERATED THE COMMUNITY'S DESIRE TO MIGHT.INDEED, EASE ANTI-ISRAEL POLICIES DIVERGE WITH IRAN'S CURRENT ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. HE REMAINED CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT FOR YEARS TO COME THE BAHA'I COMMUNITY IS THE TARGET OF A CAMPAIGN OF "ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL STRANGULATION." HE INTERPRETED THAT THE BAHA'I LEADERSHIP HAD DECIDED TO REMAIN AND IS NOT ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO LEAVE IRAN. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE KIND OF ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY

[illegible]

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 11242

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CONFIDENTIAL

P1

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:	Iraj Farnoush, Recruiter, Iran Electronics Industries
	Sandra L. Mendyk, Vice Consul, Shiraz
DATE & PLACE:	November 2, 1978, Shiraz
SUBJECT:	Religious Intolerance in Iran

DISTRIBUTION:	AMB/DCM	INR/RNA/SOA for ORDA/SOA
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	USIS	Amconsul ISFAHAN
	CONS	Amconsul TABRIZ

Mr. Farnoush is one of several members of Shiraz's Jewish community who have recently inquired about immigration to the United States at the Consulate in Shiraz. After nine years of study in the United States, Mr. Farnoush returned to Iran to accept what he terms a very good job at Iran Electronics Industries. When asked why he wishes to leave Iran, he replied that as a member of a religious minority the future here looks grim. He asked if there weren't some provision of United States immigration law which permitted members of persecuted religious groups to obtain immigrant visas more easily than the average applicant.

He stated Shiraz's Jewish population of approximately 10,000 is extremely nervous about recent manifestations of religious intolerance in Iran by Moslem fundamentalists, a group he described as volatile and unpredictable. Especially concerned are older Jews who still remember the holocaust of the World War II period.

Mr. Farnoush noted that though religious discrimination is less overt in Shiraz than in certain other cities in Iran, it still exists. For example, his sister, a nurse at Nemazi Hospital in Shiraz, has learned that a petition is being circulated by Moslem fundamentalists demanding Jewish and Bahai employees of the hospital be fired.

He said some Jews here are talking of emigration to Israel, while others are looking to the United States as a safe-haven. He stated a substantial group, however, hasn't this option because of binding ties in Iran. Those, for example, whose wealth is tied up in land have found no buyers for their properties. For them there appears no alternative but to ride out Iran's present social and political crises and hope for the best.

SLMendyk; slm; 11/5/78

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0379

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F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 00379

12065: XGDS 1/8/85 (LAMBRAKIS, GEORGE B) OR-P
PINT, IR
CT: STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS

CHRGE: STATE 1/8/79
APPRV: DCM:CWNAAS
DRFTD: POL:GBLAMBRAKIS
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: ~~POL~~ 3 AMB DCM
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O BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THERE HAVE BEEN NO MORE
T SPECIFIC ATTACKS ON BAHAIS OR OTHER MINORITIES
AR TO THE LOOTING AND DESTRUCTION OF BAHAI PROPERTIES
TOOK PLACE IN SHIRAZ ON DEC 13 (TEHRAN 12342). NCR HAVE
OWNED BANKS OR SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS BEEN TARGETS OF
FIC ATTACK AS THEY HAD BEEN IN BEGINNING OF TROUBLES
MONTHS AGO. WE HAVE HEARD NO RECENT STORIES OF
UCTION OF JEWISH SHOPS OR HOMES IN PROVINCIAL CITIES.

EVERTHELESS, MINORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN EXEMPTED FROM
G THEIR KNOCKS ALONG WITH OTHER PORTIONS OF POPULATION.
OR A VARIETY OF REASONS THEY ARE SCARED. SOME (JEWS)
HEARD DARK TALES OF HOW BAD THINGS WERE BEFORE THE
VIS. OTHERS (BAHAIS) FEAR A KHOMEINI VICTORY WILL
PCGROMS AIMED AT PEOPLE LIKE THEMSELVES. THE
IANS ARE KEEPING A LOW PROFILE SINCE HAVING RECEIVED
ETS THREATING DEATH TO PEOPLE WHO COOPERATE WITH
S REGIME. ATTENDANCE AT CHURCHES HAS DROPPED CONSI-
LY. ZOROASTRIANS ARE ALSO WORRIED. ALL MINORITIES
THE UNKNOWN IF THE SHAH DEPARTS -- AND MOST SEE HIS
TURE HAND-WRITTEN ON THE WALL.

CCORDING TO THE UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI MISSION HERE,
8-10,000 JEWS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY, LEAVING A
ITY OF 70,000 OR SO. SPOT CHECKS OF NIV ISSUANCE
SULATE IN EARLY NOVEMBER FOUND MINORITY APPLICANTS
NG AT 30-40 PERCENT OF TOTAL, WITH JEWS MAKING UP
MAJORITY OF THOSE MINORITY APPLICANTS. THESE PER-
ES APPEAR TO BE SUBSIDING SOMEWHAT IN JANUARY, AND
SSUMPTION IS THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO WERE SCARED
H BY EVENTS LEADING UP TO ASHURA TO GO HAVE ALREADY
AST GOTTEN THEIR VISAS. A NUMBER OF JEWS WITH
ESSES HERE ARE TRAVELING TO U.S. OR ELSEWHERE TO
OUT THE POSSIBILITIES ON THE GROUND BUT RETURNING
D THEIR BUSINESSES FOR THE TIME BEING. MANY OTHERS
URSE HAVE NOWHERE TO GO AND NO MOVABLE WEALTH TO
ATE ELSEWHERE WITH. THEIR ONLY OPTION IS TO KEEP
HEADS DOWN.

YI: WHEN A REPRESENTATIVE OF WORLD JEWRY FROM FRANCE
ED THE AMBASSADOR ON QUICK FACT-FINDING TRIP A FEW
AGO, HE EMPHASIZED THE DESIRE OF JEWS TO STAY IN
REPRESENTATIVES OF ISRAELI MISSION HERE, ON THE
HAND, SEND TO EMPHASIZE IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS THE
TS OF DANGER WHICH ARE LEADING JEWS TO EMIGRATE.
A LOT OF JEWS GO FIRST TO ISRAEL AND THEN FIND IT
ULT TO GET VISAS FOR THE U.S. OR GO ELSEWHERE. WE
IF THERE MIGHT NOT BE AN ELEMENT OF POLICY INVOLVED

IN THE ISRAELI MISSION'S RELATIVE ALARMISM ABOUT THE SITUATION HERE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IF ONE CONSIDERS THAT MOST OF THE JEWS WHO MANAGE TO LEAVE ARE MIDDLE-CLASS PEOPLE WITH SKILLS AND SOME FINANCIAL MEANS, THE TYPES OF IMMIGRANTS ISRAEL HAS LONG BEEN ATTEMPTING TO ATTRACT. _
END FYI SULLIVAN
BT
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E.O. 12065 GDS 1/22/85 (PRECHT, HENRY)

TAGS: CVIS, IR

SUBJECT: CONTINUING CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF IRANIAN JEWS

(C) ENTIRE TEXT

1. GROUP OF IRANIAN-AMERICAN JEWS CALLED TODAY ON NEA/IRN TO DISCUSS STEPS THAT WE MIGHT TAKE TO ASSIST IRANIAN JEWS. THEY IMMEDIATELY AGREED WITH US THAT ANY PUBLIC MOVES COULD HAVE THE COUNTEREFFECT OF JEOPARDIZING THE WELL BEING OF THE COMMUNITY IN IRAN. WE ASSURED VISITORS THAT WE WERE KEEPING STATUS OF IRANIAN JEWS UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW AND THAT EMBASSY WAS REPORTING FREQUENTLY. WE GAVE THEM A BRIEF RUNDOWN ON LARGE NUMBERS OF JEWS WHO WERE RECEIVING VISAS.

2. WE PROMISED TO RAISE WITH THE EMBASSY TWO STEPS THAT IT MIGHT CONSIDER IN ISSUANCE OF VISAS. FIRST, WE AGREED THAT UNLESS EMBASSY OBJECTED I-20 FORMS COULD BE SENT TO THE CONSULATE DIRECTLY TO CONGEN GOELZ OR VIA NEA/IRN, CONSULATE WOULD MAINTAIN THESE PAPERS ON FILE UNTIL APPLICANTS CALLED. SECONDLY, WE SAID WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY CONSIDER NOTATIONS IT MADE ON VISAS WHICH IN EFFECT PRECLUDE VISITORS FROM CHANGING THEIR STATUS (FOR EXAMPLE, JEWISH STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE A B-2 VISA WITH A NOTATION THAT STATUS CANNOT BE CHANGED FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES HERE AND AT THE SAME TIME FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RETURN TO IRAN). WE ARE REPORTING THIS CONVERSATION WITHOUT ANY INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH VISA OPERATIONS. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE EMBASSY REVIEW ITS OPERATIONS TO ASSURE THAT THE CONCERN OF JEWISH GROUPS FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR COMMUNITY IS APPROPRIATELY REFLECTED IN EMBASSY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

3. IN ADDITION, WE ARE WORKING WITH INS WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING FOR IRANIANS THE SAME KIND OF LIBERALIZED PROCEDURES THAT WERE IN EFFECT FOR LEBANESE DURING THAT CRISIS. VANCE

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CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119243

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POL
CHG
RF
CHRG

E.O. 12065 GDS, 5/10/85 (GREENE, MYLES)

TAGS: SHUM, IR

SBJCT: STATUS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY (C) ENTIRE TEXT

1. PROMINENT MEMBER OF LOS ANGELES JEWISH COMMUNITY, OSIAS G. GOREN, HAS CALLED ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN ABOUT FORMER'S UNDERSTANDING OF RAPIDLY DETERIORATING STATUS OF TEHRAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY HAS REPORT BY TELEPHONE FROM TEHRAN, FOLLOWING ELGHANIAN EXECUTION, THAT MANY MEMBERS OF TEHRAN JEWISH COMMUNITY BEING PICKED UP AND ENTIRE COMMUNITY IS IN DANGER. APPEAL TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY WAS FOR IMMEDIATE USG ACTION.

2. IN LATER CONVERSATION, GOREN TOLD DEPOFF HE COULD NOT DISCLOSE NAME OF THE TEHRAN JEW WHO HAD REPORTED THE MANY ARRESTS SINCE ELGHANIAN EXECUTION. GOREN DID SAY HE WOULD HAVE FURTHER TELEPHONE CONTACTS WITH THE TEHRAN SOURCE AND IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF LATTER COULD CONTACT SOMEONE IN EMBASSY. DEPOFF GAVE NAME OF JOHN STEMPEL.

3. PENDING ANY CONTACT BETWEEN STEMPEL AND UNNAMED TEHRAN SOURCE OF THESE REPORTS, APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE REPORT ON JEWISH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING ELGHANIAN EXECUTION. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF JEWS SAID TO BE IN DETENTION:

-- KHALIL NAHAI - BUSINESSMAN

-- MORAD DANIEL-POUR - NEPHEW OF LOTFALLAH HAY, EX-MAJLIS MEMBER

-- MR. COHEN -CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WOLLEL BONEH, ISRAELI FIRM

-- YUSSUF COHEN

-- KHANBABA SHIRAZI

-- PARVIZ HAY - BELIEVED TO BE PERSON IN GREATEST DANGER

-- ALBERT DANIELPOUR

-- RON HABIB (SPELLING)

-- MR. KUKENOUR (SPELLING)

-- MR. ARGAIE (SPELLING)

4. HAVE ADDITIONAL PERSONS BEEN ARRESTED SINCE ELGHANIAN EXECUTION? ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING OTHER RELIGIOUS MINORITIES? WHAT IS REACTION OF PGOI TO FOREIGN OUTCRY OVER ELGHANIAN EXECUTION?

5. WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE, CONGRESS, AND THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF INTENSE CONCERN ABOUT STATUS OF IRANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. PLEASE SLUG REPLY FOR WHITE HOUSE AND D. VANCE
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#9243

whos got this

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 2434
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125857

E.O. 12065 GDS, 5/17/85 (PRECHT, HENRY)

TAGS: SHUM, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN JEWS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S BEST INFORMATION OR ADVICE ON FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED BY A SET MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

3. STATUS OF YUSSUF COHEN. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT COHEN IS A FORMER MAJLIS MEMBER WHO IS PRESENTLY UNDER DETENTION. WE HAVE ASKED IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE; THEY WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION AFTER CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IF HE IS UNDER DETENTION, WHAT ARE THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND WHEN WAS HE DETAINED?

4. ARE THERE ANY GENERAL OR SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS WHICH WOULD PREVENT RELATIVES OF HABIB ELGHANIAN FROM LEAVING IRAN? SPECIFICALLY WE HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT HIS SON, FERIDOUN,-AND DAUGHTER IN LAW ELIANI, AND NEPHEW FARHMARZ. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS WHETHER A LETTER FROM MEMBER OF CONGRESS ASKING THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE IRAN WOULD BE HELPFUL. ONE SUGGESTION IS THAT LETTER BE ADDRESSED TO KHOMEINI AND CONTAIN GENERAL PLEA ON BEHALF OF IRANIAN JEWS.

5. WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR EXCELLENT EMBASSY REPORTING ON STATUS OF IRANIAN JEWS. JEWISH LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE FOR INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE REGULARLY CONVEYED TO THEM. PLEASE CONTINUE TO REPORT IN FULL DETAIL. VANCE

[redacted]

POL D
CHG
RF
CHRON

[illegible]

CLASS: CONFI
DOWNGRADE: STA
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CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 5441

DATE: [illegible]

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CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 5441

[illegible] (STEMPEL, J.D.) 04-P
[illegible]

STAT 1.4(d).

C - ENTIRE TEXT; REPORTING CABLE.

1. RELIABLE STATISTICS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM IRAN ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS THAT JEWS THEMSELVES HAVE NO INTEREST IN REVEALING TO IRANIAN AUTHORITIES PRECISE NUMBER OF JEWS WHO, HOWEVER, ARE CONVINCED THAT BETWEEN 150 AND 300 JEWS PER DAY ARE LEAVING IRAN, PARTICULARLY ON CHARTER FLIGHTS, ON HAJ AND ALIYAH FLIGHTS, ETC. HEAVY FAMILY REPRESENTATION IN GROUPS LEAVING - I.E., FULL OR CLOSE DEPARTING ARE FAMILY UNITS.

2. DISCUSSION WITH ITALIAN AND AUSTRIAN COLLEAGUES TURNED UP FACT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER IRANIAN JEWISH FLIGHT TO FOGI IN PAST MONTH. IN AUSTRIAN CASE, AMBASSADOR DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR KREISKY TO IRAN-FOREIGN MINISTER SANJABI ONE DAY BEFORE SANJABI LEFT OFFICE IN APRIL. ITALIANS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FOGI FR CENTLY. WITHIN PAST MONTH, AUSTRIANS HAVE ALSO RECEIVED SAME ASSURANCES USG RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO POLICY AGAINST JEWS. ITALIANS DID NOT SEE FOR OR GET CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE, BUT THEY ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS NO CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS.

3. WE HAVE NO RPT NO NEW EVIDENCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY HOLDUP IN GRANTING EXIT PERMITS OR EXIT VISAS TO JEWS. ZIONIST "PLOTTING" HAS, OF COURSE, COME UNDER FIRE AS RESULT OF ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. FOR JAVITS RESOLUTION IN SENATE. ASIDE FROM SHARPLY INCREASING NERVOUSNESS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN, ATTACKS ON U.S. HAVE NOT RPT NOT HAD ANY APPARENT IMPACT ON TREATMENT OF JEWS WHO WISH TO LEAVE IRAN. HAAS

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... EMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 1689

... C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 11121

... 1985: GDS 5/25/85 (RUBENSTEIN, IRWIN) OR-P

... PINS, PF, IS

... SUBJ: JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN

... (FIRE TEXT).

... HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH ISRAELI ... OFFICIALS ABOUT SITUATION OF JEWS IN IRAN, ALL OF WHICH ... INDICATED THAT THE GOI HAS VERY LIMITED INFORMATION. ... INFORMATION IS BEING OBTAINED FROM TRAVELLERS, ... THIRD-COUNTRY DIPLOMATS, AND EVEN FROM TELEPHONE ... CALLS FROM IRAN, BUT EVERYTHING THEY ARE RECEIVING ... SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY SKETCHY.

... AHARON AMIT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ... MINISTRY OF ABSORPTION, TOLD US THAT HIS MINISTRY ... HAS VIRTUALLY NO INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION ... OF IRANIAN JEWS. BOTH RAFAEL KOTLOWITZ, HEAD OF THE ... IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION DEPARTMENT OF THE JEWISH ... AGENCY, AND YORAM SHANI, OF THE MFA'S MIDDLE EAST ... DIVISION, SAID THEY WERE VERY WORRIED, AS WAS THE ... JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN ITSELF. KOTLOWITZ SAID THAT ... HE WAS AFRAID THAT THE ELGHANIAN EXECUTION WAS NOT AN ... INDIVIDUAL CASE AND THAT OTHER JEWS ARE BEING HELD AS ... HOSTAGES. SHANI, WHO SPENT TWO YEARS AT THE ISRAELI ... EMBASSY IN TEHRAN AND RETURNED HERE ABOUT SIX MONTHS ... AGO, SAID THAT HE FEARED NOT SO MUCH FURTHER EXECUTIONS ... AS A GENERAL DETERIORATION OF THE POSITION OF THE ... JEWISH COMMUNITY. SHANI SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SITUA- ... TION OF THE JEWS IN IRAN WAS OUTWARDLY COMFORTABLE ... UNDER THE SHAH, THERE WAS AN UNDERLYING RESENTMENT, ... ESPECIALLY AMONG THE POOR AND RURAL ... MASSES, WHICH UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES COULD ... LEAD INTO VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST JEWS.

4. [illegible] AGREED THAT JEWS NOT ON THE BLACK LIST (WHICH THE [illegible] HAS AS MANY AS 5,000 NAMES, JEWS AND NON-JEWS) ARE ABLE TO LEAVE IRAN, BUT KOTLOWITZ NOTED THAT ONLY ABOUT AN AVERAGE OF 25 A DAY ARE ARRIVING IN [illegible] ON TEMPORARY-RESIDENT OR TOURIST VISAS. SOME JEWS HAD EVEN RETURNED TO IRAN FROM ISRAEL TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PERSONAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS. SHANI ESTIMATED THE NUMBER OF JEWISH PRISONERS IN IRAN AT NO MORE THAN TEN, BUT RUMORS PUT THE NUMBER AT ANYWHERE BETWEEN FOUR AND TWO HUNDRED.

5. KOTLOWITZ SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH ONE VERY IMPORTANT IRANIAN JEWISH LEADER (UNNAMED) FAVORS PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF INDIGNATION FROM OUTSIDE AGAINST IRANIAN TREATMENT OF JEWS AND OTHER MINORITIES, SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE URGED RESERVE FOR THE TIME BEING. KOTLOWITZ HIMSELF FAVORED PROTESTS AGAINST THE GENERAL CONDUCT OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, I.E., SUMMARY TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS, WITHOUT CITING INDIVIDUAL CASES. SHANI THOUGHT THAT CRITICISM BY WESTERNERS WHO WERE NOT FORMERLY SUPPORTERS OF THE SHAH, AS WELL AS PRESS CRITICISM, HAS A FAVORABLE CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THE IRANIAN REGIME. CRITICISM SHOULD BE BASED ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE SITUATION SHOULD BE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY.

6. EACH OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS EMPHASIZED GOI'S LACK OF INFORMATION AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO CONTINUE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE. LEWIS

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(S - ENTIRE TEXT) DURING HIS MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY
AND SENIOR FOR ADVISORS ON MAY 31, SECRETARY VANCE
PLANNED ON APPROACHING TO TEHRAN PARSONS FOR HIS
THOUGHTS ON HOW TO ASSIST THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN.

PARSONS RESPONDED THAT IN HIS VIEW, THE JEWS AND
BAHAIS ARE AUTOMATICALLY SUSPECTED OF BEING AGENTS OF
ZIONIST IMPERIALISTS. HIS ADVICE TO THEM IS TO SEEK HELP
FROM RELIGIOUS FIGURES, WHO COULD COMMUNICATE WITH SPIRITUAL
LEADERS (SHARIAT-MADARI, FOR EXAMPLE, NOT KHOMEINI).
EVENTUALLY GOVERNMENTS WILL TAKE MATTERS OVER. THE
SECRETARY THANKED PARSONS FOR HIS OBSERVATIONS AND NOTED
THAT HE WILL BE SEEING THE POPE ON HIS WAY TO THE PACIFIC.

UNCLR #5681/21 13[illegible] **
O 112517Z JUN 79
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SUERC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHARGE: STATE
APPRV: CHG:OWMAAS
DRFTD: POL:VLTOMS
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: POL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF TEHRAN 05681

E.O. 11652: GDS 6/1/90 (TOMSETH, V.L.) OR-P
TAGS: OVIS, SREM, IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN JEWS

REF: STATE 138857

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT: REPORTING MESSAGE)

2. SUMMARY: POL COUNS MET WITH RABBI SHOOFAT AND SON ON JUNE 1 AND NAILED WITH HIM QUESTIONS IN REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

3. RABBI SHOOFAT SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT ONLY IRANIAN'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS REMAIN IN IRAN. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET EXIT VISAS ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT HE HAD EVEN TRIED SINCE HE WAS NOT HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH THEM. DAVID SHOOFAT SAID THAT HE IS SURE THAT HE WAS UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE SINCE HE HAD RUN INTO A PERSIAN IRANIAN ON THE STREET A FEW DAYS EARLIER WHO HAD PASSED HIM BY WITHOUT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGING DESPITE KNOWING HIM VERY WELL. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE ADDED, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT CONTACTING HIM DIRECTLY TO DETERMINE HIS AND WIFE'S PRECISE SITUATION, BUT HE SAID THAT HE AND HIS FATHER WOULD TRY TO ESTABLISH SOME KIND OF INDIRECT CONTACT. THE SHOOFATS APPARENTLY ARE FREE TO MOVE AROUND, AND BOTH SHOOFATS OPINED THAT THEY WERE PROBABLY IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER.

4. WHEN ASKED WHAT HELP THE USG OR PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE, RABBI SHOOFAT PRODUCED A CLIPPING OF A STORY BY DOYLE MCMANUS ON THE SITUATION OF IRANIAN JEWS (THE CLIPPING WAS UNDATED BUT POL COUNS BELIEVES IT WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS OLD). THE STORY, HE SAID WITH CONSIDERABLE EMOTION, WAS THE WORST SORT OF THING THAT WELL-INTENTIONED OUTSIDERS MIGHT DO FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. IT CITED RABBI SHOOFAT BY NAME AND MENTIONED SEVERAL OTHER IRANIAN JEWS AS WELL. BOTH SHOOFATS WERE EMPHATIC THAT ANYTHING THAT BRINGS ATTENTION TO JEWS, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR JUST MAKING THEIR SITUATION WORSE. THE ASSISTANCE IRANIAN JEWS NEED DOES NOT INCLUDE PUBLICITY. POL COUNS ASKED SHOOFATS FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE VALUE OF A QUIET APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM ON THE IRANIANS' REFUSAL FOR EXIT VISAS. THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL, SINCE SEVERAL MEMBERS INCLUDING PM BAZARGAN, SEEM TO BE GUILTY IN THEIR DISTINCTION BETWEEN

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...SAL AND ZIONISM ON THE ONE HAND AND ALSENCHUK TO ...ISM ON THE OTHER, BUT THEY AGREED FOR TIME TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES BEFORE GIVING A DEFINITE REPLY.

5. RABBI SHOOFAT SAID THAT THE BEST HELP THE U.S. COULD GIVE IRANIAN JEWS WOULD BE VISAS IN CASES WHERE THOSE ... BEING ILAN WANT TO GO TO THE U.S. IN THIS REGARD, ... SAID, THAT A PROBLEM APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED IN ... WHERE MANY IRANIAN JEWS HAVE BEEN GOING TO APPLY. ... FIRST, JEWS ENCOUNTERED LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING A SYMPATHETIC HEARING, BUT DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS A ... OF APPLICANTS HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR REASONS ... WERE NOT CLEAR TO HIM. SOME OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE ... STRANDED IN ROME FOR NEARLY A MONTH. POL COUNS ... EXPLAINED THE U.S. POLICY OF GIVING A SYMPATHETIC HEARING TO BONAFIDE GROUP APPLICANTS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSULAR OFFICERS MUST WORK WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE LAW. NONETHELESS, HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE ... WITH A VIEW TO BREAKING THE LOGJAM IN ROME. (COMMENT: POL COUNS HAS HEARD THE SAME STORY FROM SEVERAL SOURCES OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS.)

6. RABBI SHOOFAT ASKED IF IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PUT OUT SOME KIND OF NOTIFICATION TO THE EUROPEAN POSTS WHERE MANY IRANIAN JEWS ARE GOING TO APPLY FOR VISAS REGARDING THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES JEWS FACE IN IRAN. POLCOUNS SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH A NOTICE HAD IN FACT BEEN CIRCULATED ALREADY, BUT PROMISED TO SEE IF IT MIGHT BE RE-ISSUED. RABBI SHOOFAT SAID THAT MENTION IN SUCH A NOTICE MIGHT BE MADE OF THE LETTERS HE HAS BEEN PROVIDING IRANIAN JEWS. THESE LETTERS ARE PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION. WRITTEN IN HEBREW, THEY GIVE THE INDIVIDUALS' NAMES, STATE THAT THEY ARE JEWISH, AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN SEEING THAT THEY REACH THEIR FINAL DESTINATIONS.

7. RABBI SHOOFAT COULD OFFER LITTLE HELP IN IDENTIFYING ... WHO ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST OTHER THAN PARVIZ (AZIZ) MAI AND ALBERT DANIELPOUR. HE MENTIONED MESSRS. BALESHIAN, SHAMSIAN AND DARUSHTI AS PEOPLE WHO ...

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MIGHT BE BEING DETAINED BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM IT. A NUMBER OF OTHERS INCLUDING A MR. MALAMET WERE WANTED, BUT APPARENTLY HAD ELUDED ARREST SO FAR. THEY MAY HAVE EVEN GOTTEN OUT OF IRAN. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RECENT ARRESTS THAT HE WAS AWARE OF. DAVID SHOOFAT SAID THAT PARVIZ HAI IS YOUNG (ABOUT 25) AND TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THE ONLY MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY STILL IN IRAN. HE SAID THAT YOUNG HAI IS SLIGHTLY RETARDED AND PROBABLY HAS LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HE IS CHARGED WITH. ASIDE FROM HE AND DANIELPOUR, THE OTHER JEWS EITHER UNDER ARREST OR BEING SOUGHT ARE CHARGED WITH ECONOMIC CRIMES RATHER THAN BEING ISRAELI AGENTS, AS IN THE CASE OF THE FORMER TWO MEN. BOTH SHOOFATS SAID THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW THE SITUATION OUTSIDE TEHRAN.

8. RABBI SHOOFAT'S ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF JEWS WHO HAVE DEPARTED IRAN IS CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN OUR ESTIMATE OF 20,000 TO 25,000. HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NO HIGHER THAN 10,000, ALTHOUGH AGAIN, HE SAID, IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW MANY MIGHT HAVE LEFT FROM JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN PROVINCIAL CITIES.

9. IN SUM, THE SHOOFATS' PRIMARY MESSAGE WAS THAT THERE ARE SOME WAYS THE U.S. CAN HELP IRANIAN JEWS BUT THAT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, WHETHER IN THE PRESS OR IN THE U.S. CONGRESS, WAS NOT THE WAY TO DO IT. NAAS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 05681

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S E C R E T I A L STATE 158787

[illegible]465 GDS 6/20/84 (PRECHT, HENRY)

[illegible], IR

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON IRANIAN JEWS

REFTEL: STATE 156044

1. (ENTIRE TEXT).

A. [illegible] MET AS SCHEDULED ON JUNE 12 WITH CONGRESSMAN [illegible] AND HIS GROUP AND ON JUNE 19 WITH CONGRESSMEN [illegible]ZON AND GILMAN. IN BOTH MEETINGS WE PRESENTED [illegible]KGROUND ON STATUS OF JEWS IN IRAN, DRAWING ON [illegible]Y REPORTING. IT WAS AGREED BOTH MEETINGS WOULD BE [illegible]LD PRIVATE AND OFF-THE-RECORD. ALTHOUGH THE POSSI-[illegible]Y OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION ON THE CONDITION OF IRANIAN [illegible] WAS DISCUSSED, IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS [illegible]SENT AT THIS TIME TO PUSH FORWARD SUCH A RESOLU-TION. CONGRESSMEN UNDERSTOOD THE NEGATIVE EFFECT SUCH [illegible]UTION COULD HAVE ON THE CONDITION OF IRANIAN JEWS.

B. [illegible]RE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO [illegible]R JEWS AND OTHER MINORITIES. WE INFORMED CON-[illegible]S OF EMBASSY'S PLAN TO RESUME NIV OPERATIONS LATER [illegible]MER AND THEY APPEARED INTERESTED THAT WE PUSH [illegible]D TO THE EXTENT PRACTICAL IN OUR VISA PROGRAM. THERE [illegible]SO CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR [illegible]S IN HOME AND WE EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING [illegible]TIFY A TDY VISA OFFICER FOR THAT EMBASSY.

C. [illegible]BASSY REPORTING ON CONDITION OF JEWS HAS BEEN [illegible]LY USEFUL IN ENABLING US TO KEEP MEMBERS OF CONGRESS [illegible]NFORMED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUING TO [illegible] EMBASSY'S JEWISH STATUS REPORTS PROVIDING INFORMA-[illegible] ON DEPARTURE PATTERNS, ANY IMPRESSIONS YOU MAY [illegible], AND SUCH DATA AS IS AVAILABLE ON DEPARTURES OF [illegible] JEWS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RATE OF DEPARTURES IS [illegible]NIFICANTLY REDUCED AND THAT IN FACT SOME JEWS WHO LEFT [illegible] MAY HAVE BEGUN TO RETURN. VANCE

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INFO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0051
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 07034/1

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CH-GE: STATE 7/6/79
APPRV: CHARGE:LBLAI
DRFTD: POL:VLTOMSET
CLEAR: ECON/RBASH
DISTR: POL-3 CHG EC
ICA RF CHRON

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/6/85 (TOMSETH, V.L.) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SOCI, IR, EFIN
SUBJECT: IRANIAN JEWS AND ECONOMIC MATTERS

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS DERIVED FROM CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBOFFS SKUD AND RICHARDSON AND A NUMBER OF JEWISH (AND IN ONE INSTANCE AN ARMENIAN) BUSINESSMEN. THESE CONVERSATIONS REFLECT THE CONTINUING CONCERN OF IRANIAN JEWS AND ALSO PROVIDE INSIGHTS TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC PHENOMENA IN TODAY'S IRAN. END SUMMARY.

3. ONE JEWISH CARPET MERCHANT SKUD TALKED TO JUNE 29 COMPLAINED ABOUT THE SITUATION AS IT AFFECTS HIS COMMUNITY AND MADE A FEW RUDE REMARKS ABOUT KHOMEINI. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHEN THE EMBASSY'S VISA SECTION WOULD REOPEN. WHEN HE WAS TOLD THAT IT WOULD BE AWHILE YET, HE ASKED IF HE COULD APPLY FOR A VISA IN EUROPE AND WHAT HIS CHANCES WOULD BE OF GETTING ONE IF HE DID.

4. ANOTHER JEWISH CARPET MERCHANT TOLD SKUD TO HURRY BACK NEXT WEEK IF HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT BUYING SOMETHING BECAUSE HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR CALIFORNIA WITHIN TWO WEEKS. HE ALSO SAID THAT, WHILE PRICES FOR TRIBAL CARPETS WERE DECLINING, THE PRICES FOR THE FINER SILK CARPETS HAD INCREASED SHARPLY. THE APPARENT REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT THE CARPETS COULD BE USED AS A MEANS OF EXPATRIATING CAPITAL IN CONTRAVENTION OF RESTRICTIVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS.

5. SKUD ALSO TALKED TO A JEWISH MONEY CHANGER. THE BUYING RATE FOR DOLLARS THAT DAY HAD REACHED A NEW HIGH OF 120 RIALS. THE MONEY CHANGER SAID THAT HE HAD A DAUGHTER IN ISRAEL AND TWO SCHOOL-AGED SONS IN ALAMENDA, CALIFORNIA. HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM AN EARLY MORNING VISIT TO THE TELEPHONE OFFICE TO CALL HIS DAUGHTER. HE SAID IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO CALL ISRAEL FROM PRIVATE PHONES. HE HAD ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTIES AT THE TELEPHONE OFFICE, BUT HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO SPEAK IN FARSI--NOT ENGLISH OR HEBREW (PRESUMABLY TO MAKE THE WORK OF ISLAMIC EAVESDROPPERS EASIER).

6. THE MONEY CHANGER PROUDLY DISPLAYED A COPY OF AN ALAMEDA PAPER FEATURING A FRONT PAGE STORY ABOUT HIS TWO SONS, AGES 13 AND 17 WHO WERE "SEEKING REFUGE FROM A TROUBLED IRAN." AS SOON AS HE CAN SETTLE HIS AFFAIRS IN IRAN, HE TOLD SKUD, HE, HIS WIFE AND REMAINING DAUGHTER PLAN TO VISIT ISRAEL AND THEN MOVE ON TO THE U.S. TO

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1977 - 225 323

SETTLE.

7. DURING THE COURSE OF SKUD'S CONVERSATION WITH THE MONEY CHANGER, AN ARMENIAN ACQUAINTANCE CONNECTED WITH THE BANK OF IRAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST DROPPED IN TO SAY HELLO. DISCUSSION TURNED TO THE SKYROCKETING VALUE OF THE DOLLAR. THE ARMENIAN'S WIFE (RESIDENT IN THE U.S.) HAD ASKED HIM TO WITHDRAW HER RIAL DEPOSITS, BUT EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS AND THE HIGH FREE MARKET RATE HAD SO FAR PREVENTED HIM FROM CONVERTING HER RIALS TO DOLLARS.

8. HE SAID THE BANKS HAD BEEN DELUGED BY PEOPLE SEEKING TO BUY FOREIGN CURRENCY. REGULATIONS LIMITED SALES FOR NON-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES TO $3,000.00, AND ONLY PERSONS HOLDING VALID PASSPORTS, EXIT STAMPS AND AIRLINE TICKETS WERE ELIGIBLE TO BUY. NOT ALL PURCHASERS WERE BONA FIDE TRAVELERS, HOWEVER. THE DIFFERENCE IN THE OFFICIAL SELLING RATE (70.60 RIALS) AND THE FREE MARKET BUYING RATE (120 RIALS) ENCOURAGED BRIBES TO BANK EMPLOYEES TO NEGLECT TO STAMP PASSPORTS OF EXCHANGE PURCHASERS, THUS ENABLING THEM TO WORK THE SCAM AGAIN. THE BANK OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING THE FREE MARKET DOWN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED (RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT SUBSEQUENTLY DROVE THE PRICE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE ON THE FREE MARKET DOWN SOMEWHAT), BUT ADDED THAT NO ACTION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN. THE MONEY CHANGER OPINED THAT THE PGOI WAS ALLOWING THE RACKET TO GO ON TO KEEP PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS.

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9. THE BANK OFFICIAL BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE RECENT BANK NATIONALIZATION. HE SAID THERE SHOULD NO LONGER BE ANY REAL COMPETITION AND THE ATTITUDE TOWARD CUSTOMERS WOULD CONSEQUENTLY CHANGE. IN THE PAST, HE SAID, BANK EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN POLITE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE BANKS OFFERED COMPETITIVE TERMS TO ATTRACT BUSINESS. HE DID NOT EXPECT THIS TO CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE.

10. A JEWISH ACQUAINTANCE OF RICHARDSON'S, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE CARPET EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION (PROTECT), RECENTLY TOLD HIM THAT MEMBERSHIP CURRENTLY CONSISTED OF FIVE JEWS, ONE ARMENIAN AND 19 MUSLIMS. THESE PEOPLE HAD BEEN ELECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE LAST

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GENERAL ELECTION (WHICH IS HELD ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS). NOT LONG AGO, HOWEVER, A PETITION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMPLAINING THAT WHEREAS ONE JEW IS SUFFICIENT FOR PARLIAMENT, THERE ARE FIVE ON THE EXPORTERS BOARD. AS A RESULT, NEW ELECTIONS ARE TO BE CALLED, AND RICHARDSON'S CONTACT EXPECTS JEWISH REPRESENTATION TO FALL TO A SINGLE MEMBER. LAINGEN

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RUQMIQ/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 1026
RUEHDF/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 2143
RHSMNQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 2773
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7797
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3753
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4300
RUQMNQ/AMEMBASSY OSLO 4010
RUEHTR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1022
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12849

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/22/85 (MCQUADE, W.M.) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR, MILI, ENRG, GW, NO, IR
SUBJECT: (C) SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO NORWAY

REF: OSLO 3850 (NOTAL)

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOREIGN OFFICE NORDIC AFFAIRS OFFICER VON STAKELBERG GAVE US SOME DETAILS ON SCHMIDT'S JULY 12 VISIT TO OSLO WHICH SUPPLEMENT OSLO'S REPORT (REFTEL).

3. SVALBARD. NORDLI SAID THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH WAS STILL CRITICAL, CAUSING THE NORWEGIANS SOME CONCERN. NORDLI PROMISED SCHMIDT THAT NORWAY WILL DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY, PERHAPS EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAN IN THE PAST.

4. MIDDLE EAST. STAKELBERG'S BRIEFING FOLLOWED LINES OF REFTEL IN GENERAL. ACCORDING TO STAKELBERG SCHMIDT REPORTED THAT KREISKY AND BRANDT HAD ASKED ARAFAT'S HELP FOR THE JEWS IN IRAN. SCHMIDT INDICATED THAT ARAFAT HAD APPARENTLY AGREED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP.

5. OIL. STAKELBERG SAID THAT SCHMIDT EXPRESSED HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH THE HIGH PRICE OF NORWEGIAN OIL. NORDLI NOTED THAT IT WAS A MATTER CONCERNING PRIVATE CORPORATIONS AND THE FREE MARKET. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO TO MODERATE THE OIL PRICE. NORDLI EXPECTED TO SEE NORWEGIAN OIL PRODUCTION RISE FROM .9 MILLION BARRELS/DAY TO 1.2 MILLION BARRELS/ DAY IN THE 1980'S. STOESSEL

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E.O. 12065: GDS, 9/10/79 (CLEMENT, CARL)

TAGS:

SUBJECT: NIV APPLICATIONS IN "POST-CRISIS" IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 9503, STATE 35557

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S CANDID VIEWS ON SITUATION IN IRAN. DEPARTMENT CANNOT AGREE, HOWEVER, WITH EMBASSY SUGGESTION THAT POLICY ENUNCIATED IN STATE 35557 BE RESCINDED IMMEDIATELY. THAT POLICY WAS CAREFULLY FORMULATED AND BASED ON PRECEDENTS SET BY POLICIES APPLIED IN REGARD TO APPLICANTS FROM OTHER TROUBLED AREAS, SUCH AS LEBANON. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE POLICY HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND REAFFIRMED SEVERAL TIMES. WE PLAN TO REVIEW THE POLICY AGAIN IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE EMBASSY'S VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT.

3. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THE UNDERLYING BASIS FOR THE POLICY HAS RELEVANCE NOT ONLY TO BONA FIDES OF VISA APPLICANTS, BUT ALSO TO THE STATUS OF IRANIANS ALREADY IN THE UNITED STATES. AT THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, CURRENT INS INSTRUCTIONS CALL FOR BLANKET EXTENSIONS OF IRANIAN STAYS IN THE U.S. UNTIL JUNE 1, 1980. THE NEXT POLICY REVIEW WILL CONSIDER WHAT PARALLEL ADJUSTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN STATE AND INS POLICIES. IN THE CASE OF MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS, THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IS THAT A DEFINITIVE TRACK RECORD CONCERNING THEIR TREATMENT HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED YET.

4. DEPARTMENT REMAINS CONVINCED THAT CONDITIONS IN IRAN ARE OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO JUSTIFY THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT NIV POLICY FOR THE TIME BEING. THIS IS CERTAINLY THE PERCEPTION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE U.S., BASED ON MEDIA REPORTS OF CAPRICIOUS JUSTICE AND SUMMARY EXECUTIONS. WHILE WHAT PASSES FOR PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY AND A SYSTEM OF JUSTICE IN THE IRAN OF TODAY MAY HAVE COME TO SEEM AS NORMAL FROM EMBASSY'S VANTAGE POINT, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND THAT CONDITIONS WILL STABILIZE WITH TIME. VANCE
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EO 12065: NA
TAGS: CVIS SREF IR IT
SUBJECT: IRANIAN NIV APPLICATIONS BY MINORITIES

REFS: A. TEHRAN 08861, B. STATE 035357

1. SUMMARY: CONSULAR OFFICER WAS APPROACHED SEP 10 BY REPRESENTATIVE OF JEWISH IRANIAN COMMUNITY IN MILAN WHO ASKED IF SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS REGARDING HANDLING OF IRANIAN NIV APPLICATIONS OF JEWISH AND OTHER MINORITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEP 10, MANOUTCHEHR KASHANIAN, LEADER OF MILAN'S LARGE IRANIAN JEWISH COLONY, VISITED CONSULATE GENERAL TO INQUIRE IF WE HAD RECEIVED SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPT REGARDING NIV APPLICATIONS FOR IRANIAN MINORITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS. REFERRING TO THE WORSENING POLITICAL SITUATION IN IRAN, KASHANIAN SAID HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO THE HEAD RABBI IN TEHRAN, YEDIDIA, WHO TOLD HIM THAT IRANIAN MINORITY APPLICANTS SEEKING ENTRANCE TO THE US WOULD BE GIVEN "SPECIAL TREATMENT" UNTIL JUNE 1980, WHEN THEY APPLY AT US EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES FOR VISAS.

3. KASHANIAN ADDED THAT HE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH VEDIDIA, ON SEP 12, HOW TO PROCESS A LARGE GROUP OF APPROX. 1,000 IRANIANS WHO WILL SOON BE LEAVING THAT COUNTRY TO APPLY TO LONG-TERM STUDIES IN THE US. HE SAID THAT IRANIAN RABBI HAD DECIDED TO SEND HALF OF THE GROUP TO LONDON FOR PROCESSING AND THE OTHER HALF TO ROME SINCE THERE WERE NOT "ADEQUATE FACILITIES IN ITALY TO HANDLE THE WHOLE GROUP".

4. CONSULATE HAS TURNED DOWN A NUMBER OF IRANIAN NIV APPLICANTS UNDER SECTION 214 (B) OF THE ACT IN RECENT DAYS. WHILE MANY OF THE REFUSED APPLICANTS HAD PROPER DOCUMENTATION FOR ADMITTANCE TO US SCHOOLS, AND ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO COVER COSTS OF STUDIES, THEY CLEARLY HAD NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO IRAN UNTIL CONDITIONS STABILIZED IN THAT COUNTRY.

M-4-F-316

5. ACTION REQUESTED: CONSULATE NEEDS DEPT'S GUIDANCE IMMEDIATELY ON HOW TO RESPOND TO KASHANIAN'S INQUIRY ABOUT SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS ON IRANIAN MINORITIES WHO APPLY AT THIS POST FOR STUDENT OR TOURIST VISAS TO THE US AND WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR INTENTION TO RETURN TO IRAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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E.O. 12065: GDS 1/16/85 (STEMPEL, JOHN D.) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, IR
SUBJECT: STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS

REF: TEHRAN 379

1. FIGURES ON IRANIAN ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY RANGE FROM LAST YEAR'S CENSUS TOTAL OF 21,000 TO RECENT ESTIMATE OF PRESENT HEAD OF TEHRAN'S ZOROASTRIAN TEMPLE OF 30,000 TO 35,000. PROBLEM OF EXACT COUNT IS COMPLICATED BOTH BY SELF-INTEREST IN ZOROASTRIAN ESTIMATES AND FACT THAT NUMBER OF "CLOSET" ZOROASTRIANS WOULD NEVER REGISTER THAT WAY WITH CENSUS BUREAU. LARGEST COMMUNITIES ARE IN TEHRAN, YAZD, AND KERMAN, WITH SMALLER GROUPS (200-300) IN OTHER MAJOR CITIES SUCH AS SHIRAZ, ISFAHAN, AND ELSEWHERE.

2. SEVERAL ZOROASTRIAN CONTACTS, INCLUDING TEMPLE HEAD, SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PHYSICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST ZOROASTRIANS, THOUGH SEVERAL ZOROASTRIANS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FROM GOVERNMENT POSTS IN PAST SIX MONTHS. THUS COMMUNITY IS SOMEWHAT NERVOUS, BUT LESS SO THAN OTHERS.

3. GENERAL ESTIMATES FROM SEVERAL CHRISTIAN SOURCES PLACE CHRISTIANS AT OFFICIAL TOTAL OF 220,000. THIS INCLUDES ARMENIANS, ASSYRIANS, AND RESIDUAL NUMBER OF CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS, INCLUDING EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO INCIDENTS DIRECTED AT ANY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES, THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS AND NERVOUSNESS HAS BEEN HIGH AMONG THE ASSYRIANS ON OCCASION.

4. RECENT CALMING PRONOUNCEMENTS (ANNOUNCEMENTS) BY ISLAMIC CLERGY LEADERS ORGANIZATION (ICLO) AS WELL AS STATEMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL MULLAHS AND AYATOLLAHS HAVE REDUCED GENERAL TENSENESS SOMEWHAT. CROWD BEHAVIOR IN WAKE OF SHAH'S DEPARTURE JAN 16 WILL OFFER NEXT MAJOR TEST OF IRANIAN TOLERANCE. SULLIVAN
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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1[illegible]

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHRGE: STATE
APPRV: CHG:CWNAAS
DEPTD: CON:CRICHARDSON
CLEAR: NONE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5067

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/13/85 (RICHARDSON, C.W.) OR-C
TAGS: SHUM, CVIS, IR
SUBJ: VISAS AND IRANIAN MINORITIES

REF: A. TEHRAN 5044, B. TEHRAN 1241, C. STATE 35557

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT; ACTION REQUESTED)

2. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B (PARA THREE) TEHRAN HAS LONG BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE SITUATION OF MINORITIES IN IRAN AND THIS AWARENESS HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN OUR NIV ISSUANCES; ON SOME DAYS OVER HALF OF THOSE RECEIVING VISAS ARE MINORITY MEMBERS. WE CONTINUE TO GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO MINORITY APPLICANTS DURING THE CURRENT PERIOD OF RELATIVE NIV INACTIVITY, BUT IT IS NECESSARILY OF LIMITED SCOPE.

3. THE POST FULLY INTENDS TO PURSUE THIS POLICY WITH REGARD TO MINORITY APPLICANTS AFTER RESUMING FULL NIV OPERATIONS IN JULY. HOWEVER, IT CANNOT APPEAR THAT THE EMBASSY IS FAVORING MINORITY OVER OTHER APPLICANTS WITHOUT RISKING A NEGATIVE PUBLIC REACTION. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LARGE BACKED-UP DEMAND FOR VISAS WITHIN ALL ELEMENTS OF IRANIAN SOCIETY, A POPULAR PERCEPTION OF FAVORED TREATMENT OF ONE SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION COULD OPERATE TO THAT GROUP'S SERIOUS DETRIMENT.

4. REFTEL C PROVIDES USEFUL GUIDANCE IN DEALING WITH IRANIAN VISA APPLICANTS. THE EMB SUGGESTS THAT THE DEPT SEND THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FIELD WITH ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EMPHASIZING THE TREATMENT TO BE ACCORDED APPLICATIONS FROM MINORITY IRANIANS. IF THIS WERE DONE, THE DEPT WOULD THEN APPROACH MINORITY COMMUNITIES' LEADERS AND ASSURE THEM THAT THEIR BRETHREN WILL RECEIVE THE SAME CONSIDERATION BY LYING OUTSIDE OF IRAN AS THEY DO IN TEHRAN. SUCH ASSURANCE MIGHT OVERCOME THE RELUCTANCE, SHARED AMONG IRANIANS, TO GO ABROAD TO SEEK A VISA FOR THE U.S.

5. THE EMB FACES A TREMENDOUS TASK IN COPING WITH THE BACKLOGGED NIV DEMAND, OF WHICH THAT OF MINORITY PEOPLES IS ONLY A PORTION, ALBEIT AN IMPORTANT PORTION, NUMERICALLY AND POLITICALLY. THE ONLY APPARENT IMMEDIATE SOLUTION FOR THOSE TOO ANXIOUS TO WAIT THEIR TURN IN TEHRAN IS TO GO ELSEWHERE TO APPLY FOR VISAS FOR THE U.S. NAAS

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